

# Welcome to Physics!

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**Tutorials are 8:20-8:50 am everyday. If your teacher is away from their room for another duty, please see one of the other teachers.**

As a physics student, you have the opportunity to learn about the physical world that surrounds you. Physics is about how **energy** and **forces** interact with **matter** - from the tiny atoms in transistors to huge black holes in outer space! Physics is currently at the forefront of many of our biggest global challenges, and physics is essential to any career involving engineering or technology. Physics majors in college are extremely employable because studying physics helps to develop strong logic skills.

## I. Materials

- a. **Binder with paper OR a notebook (may be shared with other classes)**
- b. **Scientific calculator (must have square root & sin, cos, tan)**
- c. **Pencil and Eraser OR Pen and White Out**
- d. **Optional: protractor, glue stick, graph paper**

## II. Homework & Formative Assignments (30% of your grade)

## III. Projects & Summative Assignments (70% of your grade)

Almost every grading period you will have...

- 1 test that includes multiple choice & free response
- 1 project... generally something that you have to build or create
- quizzes which are weighted as “half a summative” each
  - this means they are weighted less than a project or test, but more than a formative assignment
- labs which are weighted as “half a summative” each

**Tests must be completed in class at the time that they are given**, unless an accommodation is on-record at Dripping Springs High School. If you are absent the day of a test, you need to allocate 40 minutes of tutorial time. You will not be allowed to re-visit a test you have already started. If you were absent the day the class reviewed, you will be given the option to take the test with the rest of the class or in tutorials.

#### IV. Tutorials

Tutorials are everyday before school 8:20-8:50am. After school tutorials are available upon request. You may attend tutorials with ANY Physics teacher, you are encouraged to learn from all of us.

#### V. Late Work Policy

Late labs and assignments will be accepted for three days past the due date. One day late maximum score 90, two days late 80, and three days 70, after which point, late work will no longer be accepted.

#### VI. Absences Due to Athletics, Illness, Etc.

If you are absent, check the calendar or google classroom for missing work. For every excused absence, you have an equal number of days to make up the work following your first day of return to the class. This is the policy of Dripping Springs High School. Please write “Absent” at the top of any turned in work.

#### VII. Academic Integrity

Cheating damages your learning and your character. Academic dishonesty includes things such as copying someone else’s homework and confusing “partner work” with “you do it first – then I’ll write down what you have.” If I observe this behavior, both people will get **zeros**, as per DSHS Student Handbook. Even if you and your lab partner collect the same data, you need to be drawing your own conclusions about what that data means about the world you live in. Intellectual growth can only occur if you put forth individual effort.

**Absent during a lab??** The best thing to do is to conduct the lab with me during tutorials. Allow 30 minutes. If the lab equipment is unavailable, I will talk you through the lab and give you data to draw your own conclusions. Do not copy a friend’s lab as you will receive a zero because of academic integrity.

#### VIII. Lab and Project Safety

All students are expected to follow all lab safety rules at all times. If any student behaves in such a way the instructor deems unsafe, the student shall be removed from the lab area and receive a zero for the assignment. They may appeal for an alternate assignment to replace their zero at a later date.

Some Physics projects might benefit from, but do not necessarily require the use of power tools and materials that could be dangerous if handled improperly. These might include a drill, saw, screw driver, hammer, box cutter, pvc cutters, springs, lasers, bungee cords, soldering irons, wire strippers, batteries, and a hot glue gun. It is recommended that Physics projects done at home are done so under adult supervision.

IX. Personal Electronics

You may use electronics when...

- You are doing individual work (Ex: listening to music with one headphone while you work on homework alone.)

You may not use electronics/headphones when...

- You are in a lab activity or group discussion
- We are taking notes
- We are watching a video as a class

If gaming, watching videos, etc. on your device becomes an issue, we will chat.

X. Classroom Expectations

**Respect the teacher.**

Behave professionally. No one wants to help a rude person.

**Respect your classmates.**

Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind.

**Respect the classroom.**

Materials are not cheap. Janitors are tired of erasing your drawings.

**Respect yourself.**

Eat breakfast. Have a positive attitude. Don't do drugs.

XI. Discipline Procedures

1st offense - student-teacher conference

2nd offense - parent-teacher conference

3rd offense - referral to the administration with parent notification

XII. Non-discrimination Clause

Dripping Springs High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its employment, practices, activities, and programs.

I understand what is expected of me, and I am super excited about physics!!

**Printed Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent (guardian), have reviewed the enclosed overview with my son/daughter, and fully understand what is required in order to pass Physics.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

If there is anything I need to know about your child, please write a short note here: